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NATURE TRAILS
AND
TRAILSIDE MUSEUM
CHECK LIST OF BIRDS

by

W. H. Carr

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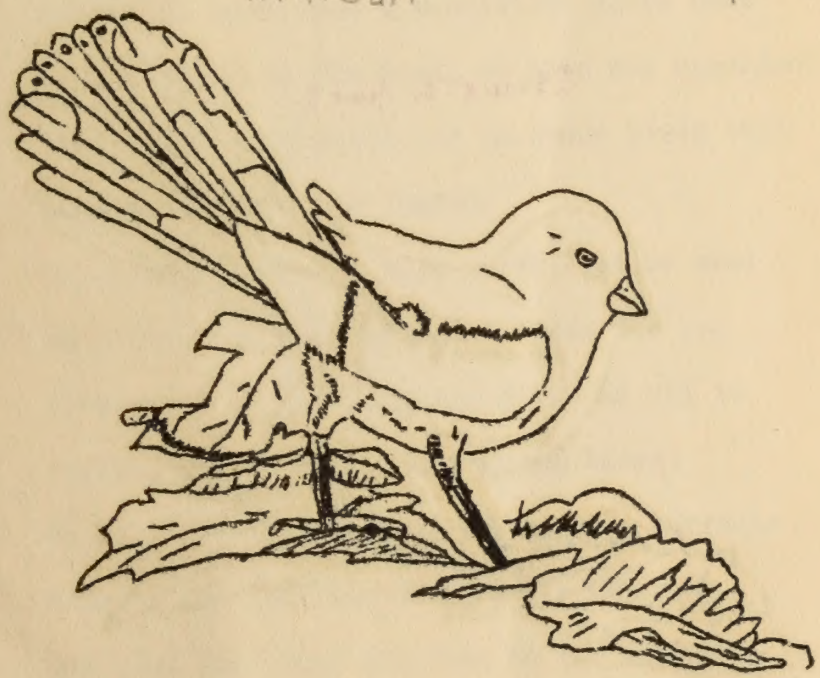

BEAR MOUNTAIN
NEW YORK

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NATURE TRAILS

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CHECK LIST OF BIRDS

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THE BIRD CHECK LIST

The Bear Mountain Nature Trail Area, situated as it is upon the banks of the Hudson, on the eastern edge of the wooded, unpopulated Harriman Park, is ideally suited to bird life. During the past nine intermittent years that we have spent in the Park, we have had excellent opportunity to observe and to study birds that inhabit or visit the region.

It is suggested that this check list be used as a basis of study and that those who are interested in this area use it as an aid to further their efforts in knowing birds.

We will greatly welcome additions or corrections to the list and will at all times be grateful for notes relating to the nesting habits or to the general habits of birds seen in the Park.

W. H. Carr.

SEASONAL LIST OF BIRDS

BEAR MOUNTAIN NATURE TRAILS

Before the fifteenth of April we can expect:

*Meadowlark
Rusty Blackbird
*Red-winged Blackbird
*Kingfisher
*Phoebe
Cowbird
*Morning Dove
*Purple Grackle
Bronzed Grackle
*Fox Sparrow
*Robin
*Bluebird
Wood Duck
*Woodcock
Vesper Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
*Chipping Sparrow
*Field Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
*Tree Swallow
Pine Warbler
Yellow Palm Warbler
Hermit Thrush
Black Crowned Night Heron
*Towhee
*Barn Swallow

By the end of April we can see:

*Green Heron
Spotted Sandpiper
*Whip-poor-will
*Chimney Swift
Bank Swallow
*Yellow Warbler
*House Wren
Blue-headed Vireo
Black-and-white Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
*Louisiana Water Thrush
*Brown Thrasher

May will usher in the most active season of bird migration. Nearly every day will bring new arrivals. By May fifteenth the woods and fields will know:

Pigeon Hawk
*Ruby-throated Hummingbird
*Kingbird
*Crested Flycatcher
*Least Flycatcher
*Baltimore Oriole
Orchard Oriole
*Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Scarlet Tanager
Warbling Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
*White-eyed Vireo
Acadian Flycatcher
*Worm-eating Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Magnolia Warbler
White-crowned Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Gray-cheeked Thrush
*Blue-winged Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
*Chestnut-sided Warbler
*Prairie Warbler
*Hooded Warbler
Northern Water-thrush
*Maryland Yellow-throat
*Ovenbird
*Redstart
*Catbird
*Wood Thrush
*Veery
*Red-eyed Vireo
Blackburnian Warbler
Olive-backed Thrush
Canadian Warbler
*Golden-winged Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler

By the first of June, the following birds will also have come:

*Yellow-billed Cuckoo
*Wood Pewee
*Cedar Waxwing
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
*Black-billed Cuckoo
*Indigo Bunting
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher

The roll call or check list of the birds that have visited our trail area during the past years is an impressive one. It is indeed a pity that space does not permit us to tell more of them than to simply list their names. Our notebooks hold many stories of these visitors, and as we write them down, one after another, certain vivid incidents connected with the various individuals come to mind and almost demand the telling. Perhaps, however, the mere naming of them will somehow serve as an incentive to those who have not called upon us, to visit the Bear Mountain Nature Trails at a future date, thus making it possible to see the birds and to gather first hand and original information. It is more interesting to see and to hear wild birds than it is to read of them. Whenever possible, Nature Information should not be "retailed" through a "middleman"

Some other birds that have visited or have been seen from our Nature Trails and the immediate surroundings during the year have been:

Bald Eagle
Broad-winged Hawk
*Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
*Sparrow Hawk
Duck Hawk
*Red-tailed Hawk
*Red-shouldered Hawk
Goshawk
Snowy Owl
*Great-horned Owl
*Screech Owl
Barred Owl
*Black Duck
Scaup Duck
Mallard Duck
Red-headed Duck
Merganser (Hooded)
Merganser (American)
Turkey Vulture
Northern Shrike
Migrant Shrike
*Downy Woodpecker
*Flicker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Pileated Woodpecker
Mocking bird
Canada Goose
Great Blue Heron
Clapper Rail
*Virginia Rail
Greater Yellowlegs
Wilson's Snipe
Killdeer Plover
Osprey
Blue-winged Teal
American Coot
Prairie Horned Lark
*Florida Gallinule

All of the birds checked with a * (star), nested on or very near the trail area during the spring of 1927.

During June and July, many birds will have completed their nesting. Young birds will be in quiet evidence in the trees and shrubs, some still being fed by the parent birds and others ready to care for themselves. The singing of the birds will be stilled to a great extent.

August, the month of the goldenrod, will usher in the season of leave-taking for the birds. Soon many of the transients will be seen or heard no more, for they will have left on their southern journey. The crow, his nesting season over, and his young full-fledged, or nearly so, will be more conspicuous than ever.

During the remaining Winter months of the year, the out-of-doors will be host to the permanent residents and to bird visitors that come from further north. The friendly Chickadee and the industrious Downy Woodpecker will be seen on leafless branches, both engaged in that constant search for food.

It is at this time of the year, perhaps, that the best opportunity to commence a study of birds has come. The birds now in the woods may nearly all be seen the year through, thus by making their acquaintance, the beginners will have secured a background of bird study that will later be of great aid when the Spring influx of birds comes steadily in, tending, sometimes, to confuse the mind of both bird-students and beginners as well.

It is suggested that the above groups of birds be used as a check list. The visitor or camper may underline the names of the birds he has identified. Birds not recorded here may be added in "Notes". We will welcome any new discoveries, or additional nesting information to aid in making the lists more complete.

NOTES

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